

# WEST FACE OF FRODO BUTTRESS

Frodo Buttress is a large, complex formation that is one of the dominant features of CMC Valley. The rock is more broken and not as attractive as the waterworn neighbours to the west, although it is home to a number of recommended natural lines. For the adventurous and hard-working, there is certainly potential for new routes.

## Approach

As for Ripple Wall. The easiest approach is to continue directly to the base of Hidden Gully and then walk right along a trail at the base of the cliff. Alternatively, several hundred metres out from Ripple Wall there is a trail (cairn) that heads up the scree to the right and arrives at the cliff at the corner of the West and South faces.

## Descent

If you leave a pack at the base of the route, descent from the West Face of Frodo Buttress is best made down Hidden Gully. An alternative is to traverse east across the hillside above the main cliff to the Main Descent Gully between The Runes and Runewall.

## Pulmonata 100 m, 5.8

C. Perry & J. Jones, October 1977

To the right of Hidden Gully is a small buttress separated from the main face by the deep chimney of Inner Limits. The climb starts by a large block set in the scree about 5 m left of Inner Limits.

Note: It may be possible to fix a rappel route down the left side of the buttress into Hidden Gully. This would serve as a convenient descent route for Pulmonata and the lower section of Inner Limits.

- 1) 25 m, 5.7 Climb the wall to an ill-defined crack and go across to a small ledge. Traverse up left to a shallow groove and continue up this to a ledge below a V-corner.
- 2) 40 m, 5.8 Traverse left across the wall and climb a series of shallow corners that diagonal slightly left across the face to a more prominent groove above. Belay on a small ledge on the left, at the top of the groove (bolt).
- 3) 35 m, 5.6 Move left and climb a groove to easier ground and the top of the buttress.
- 4-5) Join Inner Limits and continue as for that route.

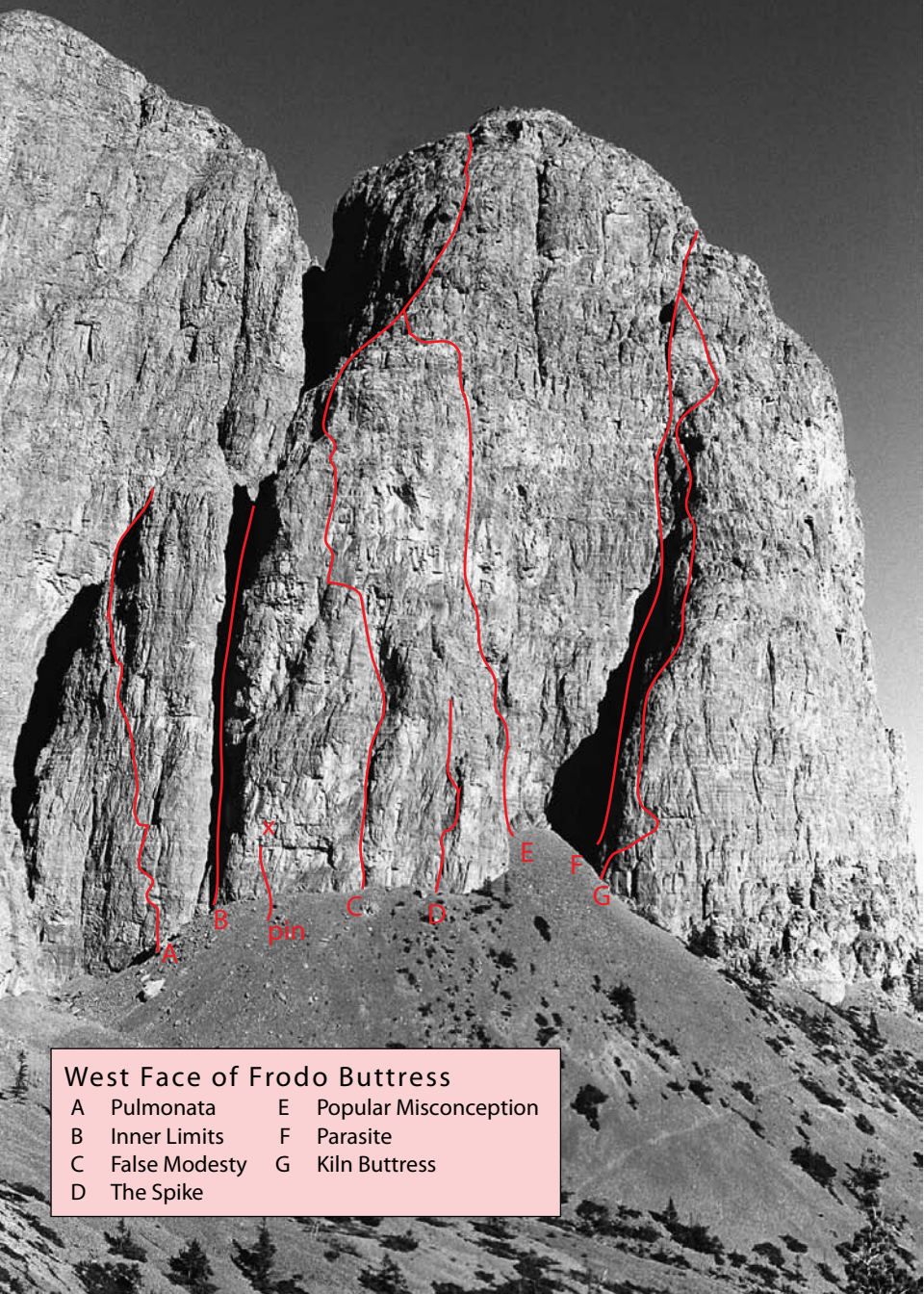
## Inner Limits 200 m, 5.7

R. Amann & J. Frey, October 1973

The climbing in the lower chimney is quite interesting and leads to an easy-angled section at about half height. The continuation chimney is loose and fairly easy.

## False Modesty\* 200 m, 5.10a

W. Davidson, G. Homer & J. Jones, June 1973



### West Face of Frodo Buttriss

- |   |               |   |                       |
|---|---------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | Pulmonata     | E | Popular Misconception |
| B | Inner Limits  | F | Parasite              |
| C | False Modesty | G | Kiln Buttriss         |
| D | The Spike     |   |                       |

This highly recommended route offers good crack and face climbing and deserves to be climbed more often.

**Start** Continue up the scree past Inner Limits to where the trail flattens out. Look for a spectacular crack about three-quarters of the way from Inner Limits to a pair of trees. The crack starts in the front of the buttress and leads to a bowl. The climb starts here and angles up left to the ridge.

- 1) 40 m, 5.10a Climb the crack (piton) to a belay in the bowl.
  - 2) 30 m, 5.8 Climb the wide crack on the left side of the bowl and continue to the top of a pinnacle.
  - 3) 40 m, 5.9 Move left from the pinnacle and climb a steep slab (piton) past a shattered block on the left to a corner and a second piton runner. Move up and make a difficult traverse left to easier ground. Continue up a groove to the ridge.
- 4-6) Easy fifth-class climbing up the ridge leads to the top of the buttress.

### The Spike 55 m, 5.10a

D. Guthrie & J. Buszowski, May 1985

**Start** This short route starts in a shallow corner just above a large block set in the scree about 10 m right of False Modesty. It climbs a crack that starts about 30 m up the cliff and ends at ledges.

- 1) 30 m, 5.10a Climb a shallow corner with a piton at the top, and then move right and climb a steep wall. Continue up and right to a chimney and follow this to a belay.
- 2) 25 m, 5.10a Traverse left and climb the crack. At the top, move up right to a bolt belay.

**Descent** One rappel reaches the ground.

### Popular Misconception 180 m, 5.9

J. Lauchlan & S. Sutton, August 1973

Located on the left side of the bay of Parasite, just in from the edge of the buttress, is a wide crack/chimney that leads up to steep yellow rock. The line continues as a series of broken corners to the edge of the ridge. The climbing is difficult and the rock on pitch 2 is poor.

- 1) 30 m Climb the crack to a pedestal belay on the right.
  - 2) 40 m Continue mainly to the left of the corner line to a belay at some large blocks.
  - 3) 45 m Move right to the steep corner system and climb this (crux) to easier ground leading up to the ridge.
- 4-5) 75 m Continue up the ridge as for False Modesty.

### Parasite 190 m, 5.8

D. Jones & B. Haggerstone, May 1972

This climb follows the crack system on the right at the back of the bay and is reported to be quite loose.

- 1) 15 m Scramble over broken rock and ledges to where the gully steepens. Belay below a

crack to the right of the main chimney.

- 2) 35 m, 5.6 Move left and climb the chimney. Continue up and right to a belay below a loose overhang.
- 3) 30 m, 5.7 Pass the overhang on the right and follow a groove to a second overhang. Step left and climb up to a large ledge.
- 4) 25 m, 5.6 Climb the left side of a double crack system to a ledge on the right.
- 5) 35 m, 5.8 Move up and diagonally right on loose blocks. Continue right round the corner and climb a steep crack.
- 6) 40 m Move up and left to an obvious crack. Climb this and continue up and right to a belay.
- 7) 10 m Easy climbing leads to the top.

### Kiln Buttress 200 m, 5.6

J. Jones, B. Greenwood & G. Homer, 1971

This is a long and fairly easy climb up the buttress to the right of Parasite. The first two pitches are the most difficult.

Start 10 m left and uphill of a steep yellow slot near the front of the buttress before the scree goes downhill.

- 1) 15 m, 5.6 Climb diagonally right across the wall to ledges above the slot. Continue right round the edge of the buttress and climb up to a belay ledge below a short corner.
- 2) 40 m, 5.6 Climb the steep wall left of the belay to an easy-angled section.

Continue more easily to the summit, staying near the edge of the buttress.

# SOUTH FACE OF FRODO BUTTRESS

This area extends east from Kiln Buttress to the gully at the right end of the crag that separates it from the first of the Rune buttresses. Existing routes are confined to the right side of the face and this section is shown in the photograph. The two most prominent features are the large, slanting corner systems of The Iliad and Luminous Pigeon.

## Approach

The best approach for the climbs done to date is to follow the open slopes up toward The Runes (see introduction) and then follow a good trail leading west near the base of the cliff. The west side of the wall can be reached using the Ripple Wall approach. Several hundred metres out from Ripple Wall there is a trail (cairn) heading up the scree to the right that arrives at Frodo Buttress near the corner of the West and South faces.

## Descent

Descent is normally made down the narrow gully at the right end of the cliff adjacent to the First Rune (two short rappels), but for climbs going to the top of the buttress the Main Descent Gully between the Runes and Runewall is easier.

### S-Crack 35 m, 5.8

B. Keller & C. Perry, April 1977

This short route climbs a shallow corner just left of The Iliad. It finishes at about one-quarter height although the route could be extended as a variation start to The Iliad.

Start below a shallow, curving crack just before the scree cone heads up hill and about 40 m left of The Iliad. Scramble up to a ledge with a small tree growing out of a crack about 10 m above the ground.

- 1) 35 m, 5.8 Follow the crack, moving left to a rib at a difficult section. Continue to a fixed belay in a groove.

Descent Rappel the route.

### The Iliad\* 170 m, 5.8

G. Homer & R. Wood, November 1970

In its lower section, the climb follows a prominent slanting chimney and then moves left to climb a corner and crack system in the upper wall.

Start at the base of the lower chimney.

- 1) 40 m Follow the chimney until it steepens.
- 2) 50 m Either climb the clean corner directly above the belay (5.9), or move left and climb up more easily. Continue via a steep crack to an overhang (possible belay) and then follow cracks up and left to a large ledge.
- 3) 40 m, 5.8 Walk left along the ledge and then move up and slightly left to a large right-facing corner. Climb the corner past a difficult wide section to a small ledge.
- 4) 40 m, 5.8 Follow layback flakes up to a good hand-crack and climb this directly to the top. Alternatively, climb part way up the crack and then move left to a sloping, exposed ledge. Traverse left for 5 m to a fixed piton and climb a short wall to the top.

### Luminous Pigeon\* 145 m, 5.7

J. Jones & R. Schneider, October 1970

This climbs the right of the two corner systems and stays left in the lower section to avoid a narrow, overhanging chimney.

Start slightly to the right at a corner below the overhanging chimney.

- 1) 30 m Climb the crack until it steepens and then move left and up to a ledge. From the left side of the ledge climb up a short distance to a belay in the corner.
- 2) 45 m Move left to a thin crack in the slabs and climb this to a corner. Continue up the corner (crux) and then move easily up right to the upper chimney.
- 2 alt.) 5.7 Move up right and climb the overhanging chimney. This involves a tight squeeze past a constriction followed by more pleasant climbing above on the outside of the chimney.
- 3-4) 70 m Follow the chimney to the top.

### Wormtongue 40 m, 5.8

C. Perry & P. Dickson, October 1977

This worthwhile, one-pitch climb goes up a corner about 30 m right of Luminous Pigeon and ends at large, sloping ledges. With bolt protection it may be possible to extend the climb up the impressive, solid-looking gray wall on the right to reach an obvious exit chimney.

Start at a short groove just left of the corner and about 30 m right of Luminous Pigeon.

- 1) 40 m, 5.8 Climb a short groove on the left and then traverse right into the corner. Follow this to a bolt belay at the ledges.

Descent Rappel the route.

### Kazak 130 m, 5.7

S. Jennings & C. Perry, February 1973

This wandering climb could also possibly benefit from a modern approach. An interesting sweep of rock to the right of the pinnacle at the base of the cliff leads directly to the upper chimney and could provide an alternative start.

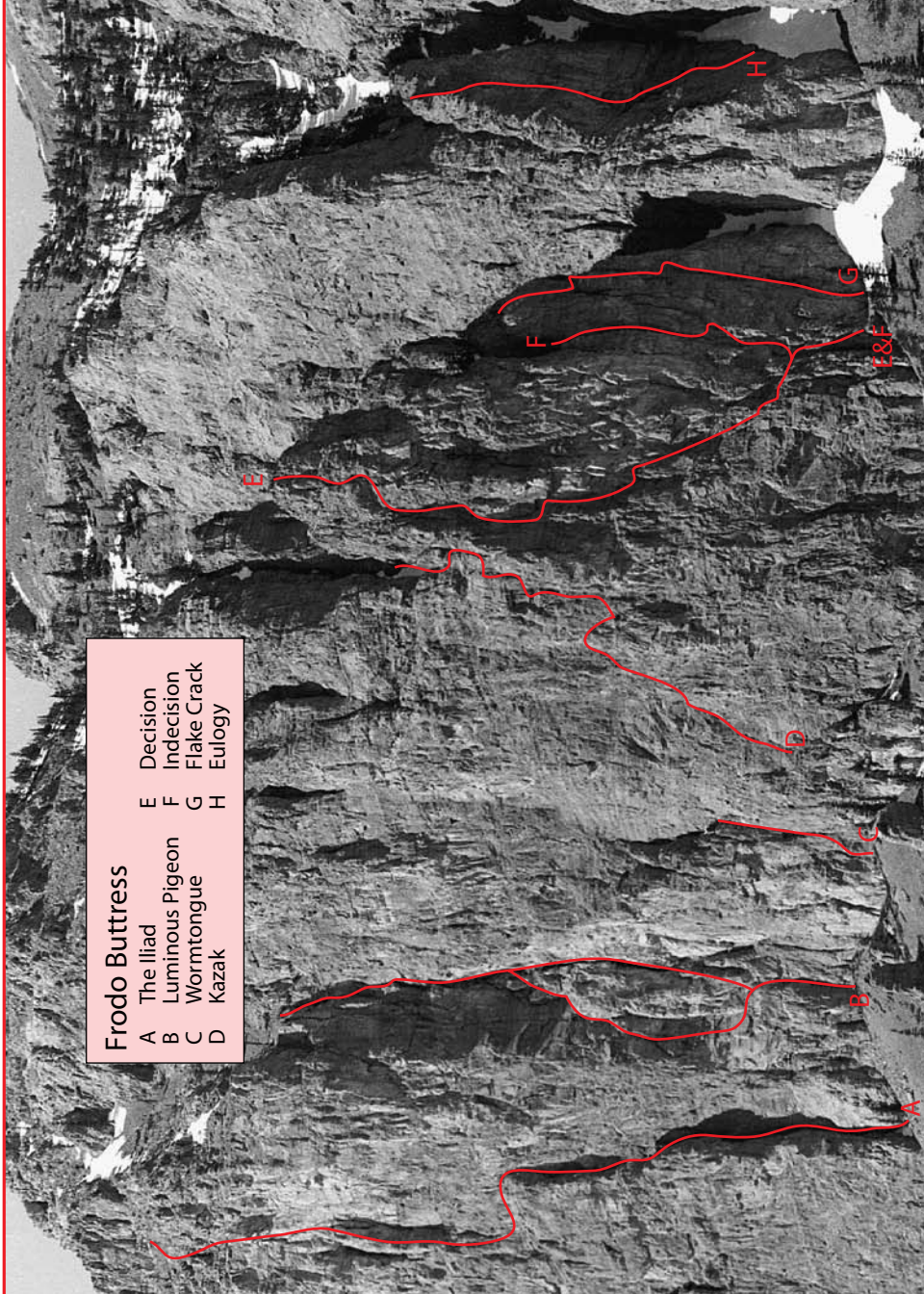
Start about 45 m right of Luminous Pigeon behind a small pinnacle.

- 1) 30 m, 5.6 Follow a system of grooves that slants up to the right to a piton belay.
- 2) 30 m, 5.7 Move right and climb a corner at the side of a loose stack. Move back left to a groove and follow this to a ledge on the right (piton belay).
- 3) 30 m, 5.7 Move up right over a pinnacle; then drop down and traverse delicately right to the base of a chimney. Climb this to a belay on the left.
- 4) 40 m, 5.6 Continue up the chimney to ledges on the right, and then move up and left to reach a large exit gully.

### Decision 135 m, 5.7

## Frodo Buttress

- |   |                 |   |             |
|---|-----------------|---|-------------|
| A | The Iliad       | E | Decision    |
| B | Luminous Pigeon | F | Indecision  |
| C | Wormtongue      | G | Flake Crack |
| D | Kazak           | H | Eulogy      |



J. Firth & J. Jones, March 1973

At the east end of Frodo Buttress, near the First Rune, is a large flake with a corner-crack on its left side (Flake Crack). Just left of this a series of ledges leads up steeply to the left, forming a ramp that terminates in a corner capped by a roof (Decision). Near the start of the ramp a corner system leads up slightly rightward to a chimney (Indecision).

Start at the base of the ramp, about 10 m left of Flake Crack at a small tree growing next to the cliff.

- 1) 55 m Climb up left following a series of ledges, and belay as high as possible near the base of a corner capped by a square-cut overhang.
- 2) 40 m Climb the corner until a traverse left below the overhang can be made and move up with difficulty to a crack. Climb the crack to a ledge, and then move right to belay.
- 3) 40 m Climb up and then right to a prominent crack and follow this to the top.

Indecision 80 m, 5.8

J. Jones & C. Smith, November 1970

Start at the ramp, as for Decision.

- 1) Climb up to below a triangular overhang at the base of the corner leading to the upper chimney. Pass the overhang on the right and continue up the corner for 15-20 m until a ledge about 5 m to the right can be reached. Belay below a good crack.
- 2) Make an awkward move left across the steep wall and climb up to a good ledge. Move left into the chimney and belay.
- 3) Climb the chimney passing two overhangs (piton at first).

Flake Crack 70 m, 5.8

P. Morrow, C. Perry & S. Jennings, March 1974

Start about 10 m left of the gully between Frodo Buttress and the First Rune below the obvious corner with a bush growing 5 m off the ground.

- 1) 45 m Climb the obvious crack and chimney to the top of the flake.
- 2) 15 m Move left and then climb up to a crack (crux) that leads up to a ledge with a small tree.
- 3) 15 m Move left and climb the wall to a large ledge.